



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Montana

To find out how to become a foster parent in Montana, please call 1-866-936-7837 (866-9FOSTER) or visit: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/relatedtopics/fostercare.shtml>

To learn more about adoption in Montana, please visit:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/adoption/adoptioninmontana.shtml>

Total Population: 1,866 children were in the foster care system in Montana on September 30, 2003.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 9.4 years

5%	< 1 year	30%	11-15 years
29%	1-5 years	14%	16-18 years
22%	6-10 years	0%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 52% Female: 48%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	0%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	52%	84%
	Hispanic	6%	3%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	34%	9%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
	Unknown	4%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	3%	3%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 28 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 47% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 946 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Montana.ⁱⁱⁱ

On September 30, 2003, 33% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 91% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 8% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

ⁱ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

ⁱⁱⁱ Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System
http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127